

Minutes

NPCC FELWG, MEETING HOSTED BY POLICE SCOTLAND. TUESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2018.

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Author: DURHAM CONSTABULARY
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Business Area: FIREARMS
Portfolio: FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES LICENSING WORKING GROUP
Attachments @ paragraphs: None

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

ACC Dave Orford, Durham Constabulary, Chair
Neal Bickford, Durham Constabulary
Bridget Hodgson, Northamptonshire Police
Mark Groothuis, Op. Endeavour
Martin Parker, NaBIS
Mike Cox, Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Joe Cooke, Devon and Cornwall Police
Darren Miller, Hampshire Police
Tony Hill, Hampshire Police
Janet Jones, Merseyside Police
Bernie Turner, Met Police
Roger Arditti, Met Police
Chris Lynn, National Crime Agency
Helen Rees, DPP
Jonathan Cumberbatch, Police Scotland
Glenn Bland, Police Scotland
Ronnie Megaughin, Police Scotland
Sarah Smith, Scottish Government
Cath Morgan, Scottish Government
Nicola Murphy, PSNI
Richard Kennett, Suffolk Constabulary
Grant Mundy, RMP
Mike Porter, Military intelligence
Michelle Mounsey, D&C police



1.2 Welcome

ACC Orford welcomed everyone to Police Scotland, and passed his thanks to Helen Rees, and acknowledged the work of Helen and Dave Coutts, who both now step down from FELWG.

2. Action Log

2018 Security standards

NB updates internal consultation has finished, and subject to a few minor changes will be going for external consultation imminently. – Discharged.

Medical returns by region

HO have latest picture in relation to compliance. – Discharged.

Declaration of deactivated weapons

Covered in main agenda. - ONGOING

FEO accreditation

All forces aware of impending launch of FEO standards work – Discharged.

GDPR

HO to consider GDPR notifications in statutory forms – ONGOING.

Main Agenda

3 College of Policing and FEO standards work.

NB updated group on behalf of the College of Policing in relation to FEO standards work, a copy of which is included in the pack. The learning standards, and learning outcomes have all gone through internal verification and consultation, and have been sent to some external stakeholders for feedback. The final product has now been agreed and will be presented at Chief Constable Andy Cooke's Programme Board on 6th October for formal ratification. At this point the standards will be live, and we will utilise some early adopter forces to establish and weaknesses or difficulties in completion. SG and FP from the College are meeting with DO in November to discuss quality assurance process, which should ensure consistency in application across the country.

4 Home Office updates

HO were unable to attend due to ongoing issues, but a written submission was provided with HO updates;

Medical arrangements and draft statutory guidance

The Home Office has looked at the content of the draft statutory guidance with the police. There have been extensive discussions, including with medical and shooting representatives, about the medical content in light of the problems with GP response levels and engagement across England and Wales. We hope to be in a position soon to begin the public consultation on the statutory guidance as a whole – the medical arrangements will be a key part of this.

Air weapons

There was much public interest in the review, and over 50,000 responses were received by the HO in addition to the views of families of air weapon shooting victims, shooting groups, police, and animal welfare groups who were approached. The responses are being considered and a Government response will be issued in due course.

Section 5, museum and club fees

Following getting the necessary cross-Govt clearances we should be in a position shortly to produce the regulations which will set out the new fees. The earliest the fees could be introduced would be later this year, although they will not be in time for the 1 October common commencement date.

Lost and stolen wording on the firearm and shotgun certificate

The wording on the firearm and shotgun certificate is being changed to encourage swifter reporting of lost and stolen firearms. The condition wording will change to:

‘The holder of this certificate must inform the Chief Officer of Police by whom the certificate was granted as soon as reasonably practicable, but within 7 days of the theft...’ with *‘as soon as reasonably practicable’* added. This should be ready for introduction on NFLMS and Shogun on 16 October.

Antique firearms

We are expecting to lay regulations defining ‘antique firearm’ in October/November.

Brexit

A technical note on the position regarding EFPs in the event of ‘no deal’ may be published in September.

Transposition of the EU Firearms Directive

I attach a first draft of the Regulations being made to enable the UK to transpose the revised EU Directive, particularly as regards the marking of component parts and the notification of deactivated firearms acquired after the Regs come into effect - probably at the end of the year. Would appreciate any feedback on the proposed wording from FELWG

Lincs findings on medical matters

BH presented a paper on the findings from Lincolnshire in relation to their findings since mandating pre-medical screening. Medical screening as not previously required, but since they have mandated it they have seen a worrying level of false declarations. Over the last reporting period this has led to 30 straight refusals for dishonest declarations which can only be described as deliberately deceitful. Many more have been dealt with by way of warning letters and withdrawals. Lincs have engaged with shooting groups and highlighted this problem on their website. Lincs report favourably on the use of enduring medical markers, and the uptake in their area, citing numerous examples of proportionate surrenders.

DM discussed the imminent statutory guidance and how medical screening should be catered for in relation to forces using the single online home – i.e. should it automatically reject an application form that does not come complete with pre-medical screening – DO asks this be discussed in his user group meeting.

JC Discussed a secure online notification for GP's to report direct to policing in Staffs licensing.

DO states still awaiting statutory guidance from the HO.

*******RESTRICTED – HIGHLIGHTS VULNERABILITY*******

Home office approved clubs

NaBIS update

*******RESTRICTED – HIGHLIGHTS VULNERABILITY *******

5 NFLMS

DARREN MILLER

DM gave NFLMS updates from recent user group meeting. HO states NFLMS has life until 2022, where it will need to be replaced from both a technical and commercial view. There is discovery work beginning in October.

Risks and issues register discussed – performance now broadly in line with SLA's, and a move to cloud will help improve this further.

5.1.1 Release delayed, now ETA 2nd October.

Digital public contact testing begins WC 24th September, focusing primarily on the 201 and payments.

*******RESTRICTED – HIGHLIGHTS VULNERABILITY*******

6 NCA updates

*******RESTRICTED *******

*******RESTRICTED – SUBJECT TO CORONERS REVIEW, COULD HIGHLIGHT INDIVIDUAL*******

8 Coroners case in Dorset.

*******RESTRICTED – HIGHLIGHTS VULNERABILITY*******

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10 Reminder from HO re. Correct input of coterm certificates - **ACTION** all forces please comply with direction as attached.

11 RK posed a question on performance targets re. process times, and what other forces deemed to be reasonable. NB of the opinion that targets drive perverse behaviour, and should be abandoned completely – the objective is to get the correct decision. DO gave examples of the same – hitting target and missing the point.

12 MC discussed transfers in / out – MG – It is a matter of law, that the decision to grant sits with the force in which the applicant is domiciled. DO – it is expected that the original forces will provide all information in relation to contentious issues.

*******RESTRICTED – HIGHLIGHTS VULNERABILITY*******

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14; RA discussed his recent academic work, papers circulated on the same.

15; MG visitors permits; MG reminded all about the recommendations around visitors permits;

- Visitors Firearm & Shotgun Permits should not routinely issued for 12 months.
- Visitors permits should only be granted for a period for which the Sponsor can confirm firm arrangements are in place for shooting and accommodation.
- It is very important that the address at which the visitor is staying at is correct on NFLMS.